

Vision 2020 Standing Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2017

Attending: Juli Brazile (Chair), Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Susan Doctrow, Amy Goldstein, Annie LaCourt, Nat Strosberg, Jenny Toole

Absent: Scott Lever

Guests: Tahir Majid

Approve minutes of March 8, 2017

The Committee agreed that it would follow-up with Mr. Chris Rowell to obtain a draft copy of the minutes.

Debrief: Civics Day and Meeting for All Precincts

Civics Day:

Ms. Goldstein pointed out that the event could have been better publicized and attended. Ms. Brazile mentioned that it is always hard to publicize a new event and she suspects the public wasn't sure what they might get out of the event.

Meeting for All Precincts:

Ms. Doctrow stated that the success of the breakout sessions varied: some were quite engaging and others did not seem productive. She stated that more guidance for the warrant article proponents could be helpful for the next precinct meeting. Ms. Brazile mentioned that a summary sheet of applicable content could be useful for the participants.

Ms. Brazile stated that it was very loud in some of the breakout session areas. Ms. LaCourt suggested that for the next precinct meeting, the Committee should investigate the use of the Board of Selectmen room and other Town Hall spaces where echoing could be minimized.

It was agreed that more publicity would be needed for the next precinct meeting, and that the publicity should highlight the opportunity for residents to meet their precinct representatives. Mr. Majid suggested that the event could be divided into two events: one for even numbered precincts and one for odd numbered precincts.

Ms. Goldstein inquired as to whether the next precinct meeting could be combined with the Town Meeting moderator's orientation for Town Meeting members.

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Ms. Carr-Jones pointed out that for the main presentations, articles were solely discussed by proponents, and that opposing viewpoints were not discussed. She suggested that the next precinct meeting include overviews of the issues that present both supporting and opposing arguments. Ms. LaCourt mentioned the importance of emphasizing that the precinct meeting is a forum for debate and for a variety of questions that fully explore the relevant issues. Ms. LaCourt also mentioned that it would be helpful if committee and board reports and other summary materials could be shared at the next precinct meeting, so that meeting attendees could become familiar with committee/board stances on warrant articles.

Report to Town Meeting

Ms. Brazile mentioned that there would not be enough time to scan all of the surveys prior to Town Meeting. She pointed out, however, that a preliminary report could be generated and presented based on data collected from a portion of the surveys. Ms. Brazile stated that she would organize groups to begin the survey work.

Task Group Updates

Ms. Brazile mentioned that:

- Sustainable Arlington has begun to think about EcoFest 2018 and is considering land-use as the theme. The group is considering creating materials that highlight the overlap between the group and other groups in Arlington that promote sustainability.
- Additional efforts regarding recruitment for Diversity should be considered.
- Reservoir will probably not make sachets for Town Day.
- Fiscal Resources' article in the Advocate included a clear and helpful organizational chart of Town government.
- Education is about ready to organize and begin to have more people take responsibility for tasks like agenda/minutes, publicity for events, etc.

FY 17 Budget and FY 18 CDBG cuts

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Ms. Brazile stated that there is about \$1,200.00 currently in the budget. The Committee discussed possible ways of using the funds, such as paying for the new bulletin boards. Ms. Carr-Jones stated that she would be hesitant to use the funds to print new Vision 2020 materials until Vision 2020 solidifies its new name and purpose. The Committee agreed that it is a priority to determine how the funds should be used before the conclusion of the fiscal year.

Ms. Brazile stated that \$2,000.00 of CDBG money is available for the survey and that printing costs are about \$2,100.00. Ms. Brazile stated that Julie Wayman, CDBG Coordinator for the Town, said that funds could be rolled over to cover the outstanding cost. Ms. Brazile also stated that only a very limited number of paper copies of the Vision 2020 report should be printed to save money.

New Business

Ms. Brazile mentioned that the webpage should be updated and that the Committee should reach out to Joan Roman, Public Information Officer with the Town, to coordinate the effort.